

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 150
By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Bruce Slatten and the 1996-1997 Perry County High School boys' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament.

WHEREAS, of the hundreds of Tennessee high school basketball teams, only three exhibited the determination, ability, offense, defense, and greatness to go through a rugged schedule, not be deterred by setbacks, and be crowned champions; and

WHEREAS, the superb 1996-1997 Perry County High School boys' basketball team, playing with the strength and challenge of longstanding tradition of excellence, won the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Vikings sailed forward in familiar District 12-A waters and won the championship struggle with an undefeated record; and

WHEREAS, Perry County next won the District 12-A Tournament, overwhelming Collinwood 70-49 and Summertown 69-44; and

WHEREAS, they easily overcame the next hurdle on their "quest to be the best" by beating Culleoka 81-42, Hampshire 75-46 and Columbia Academy 66-50 en route to winning the Region 6-A Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate game, this tremendously talented team beat Moore County 60-32; and

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WHEREAS, the Vikings won each of their state championship tournament battles impressively, posting victories over Chattanooga Christian 89-59, Upperman 88-63 and Columbia Academy 82-47; and

WHEREAS, this year marked the sixth time that Perry County has won the boys' state basketball championship; and

WHEREAS, their smallest margin of victory in any 1977 playoff game was 16 points; and

WHEREAS, this was the fourth straight state tournament appearance for the boys from Linden; and

WHEREAS, with a perfect 37-0 overall mark, this was the first time Perry County has gone undefeated for an entire session; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded Coach Bruce Slatten has taught his team to be winners, both on the hardwood and off; and

WHEREAS, the team was led by senior center Kirk Haston, Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A "Mr. Basketball" and two-time State Tournament Most Valuable Player; and All-State Tournament team members senior forward Chris Jones, junior forward/guard Mitchell Rhodes, who has adroitly carried on the Rhodes family tradition by helping Perry County win a state title, and junior guard Cory Brown; and

WHEREAS, the other members of the team, who each played a significant role in the team's success, were seniors, guard Phillip Carroll, and forward Chad Marrs; juniors, guard Nick Cobie, center Shannon Hamm, forward Ben Mercer, and forward/guard Blake Warren; sophomores, center Barton Coble, forward Clay Pope, and guard Josh Warren; and freshmen, center Dan McEwen and guard Josh Walker; and

WHEREAS, the team has been strongly supported by Principal Wayne Morris, scorekeeper Martha Ruth Edwards and bus driver Kenneth Shelton; and

WHEREAS, the hard-working team managers were seniors Kenny Tohn and Adam Trull, and sophomore Ryan Parnell; the accurate statisticians were juniors Jeremy Hester and junior Troy Himes and the dedicated cameraman was sophomore Michael Jones; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this special team on their numerous accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Bruce Slatten and the 1996-1997 Class A State Champion Perry County High School boys' basketball team and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.